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SOUTH VIETNAM

PRG Losing Edge in Paris

The PRG apparently has not found the forum for increased prestige and propaganda it sought through the bilateral talks in Paris with the South Vietnamese. The US delegation in Paris believes that PRG chief delegate Hieu has failed to attract any significant attention. In fact, Madame Binh, who has not been in Paris for weeks, has received more press coverage. Moreover, according to members of the Saigon delegation, the PRG has lost face with the Vietnamese exile community in Paris--a prime PRG target--as a result of the resumption of ambassadorial-level relations between Paris and Saigon. The PRG representation in Paris remains at the "information office" level.

The US delegation also believes that Saigon's team has been more effective than the Viet Cong in dealing with the press, and that Saigon's six-point proposal of 25 April caught the PRG off guard.

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CAMBODIAProgress in the New Council

The four members of the High Political Council and representatives of two of the country's three major political parties are winding up their deliberations on a program for the new government. According to the US Embassy, a new prime minister--probably former deputy prime minister Sok Chhong--and a new cabinet could be in place within the next few days. Only one point remains to be resolved: whether the new government will be given partial or total control over the conduct of the war.

Two major issues were resolved over the weekend. Upon the insistence of Sirik Matak, it was decided that a single commander in chief of the armed forces will be named and new elections will be held. The time and character of the elections were left vague to allow the council more flexibility. [REDACTED]

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25X1The Military Situation

Government forces are continuing to expand their control over the east bank of the Mekong River opposite Phnom Penh. Other government clearing operations along Routes 1 and 30 southeast of the capital are making little headway. The two-pronged Cambodian effort to reopen a section of Route 5 northwest of Phnom Penh is also making scant progress. Elsewhere, government troops defending the southern provincial capital at Takeo have expanded the city's northern defensive perimeter, but are encountering stiff Communist resistance along the southern and western perimeters. [REDACTED]

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